Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* As a matter of fact, they were not given anything for this work. I thought it would be very irksome to them to work for no remuneration when they are all daily wage earners and that something must be given to them. The kind of work that they do there is, for example, digging of wells, etc., for the use of the 30 or 40 houses in a colony. Government met all the other expenses and the colonists had to supply the labour. That was the practice before. I have now modified it and said that they should be paid at least two annas. I am not going to say it is sufficient remuneration, but certainly it is an improvement of the then existing conditions, when I came to office.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* Are not these Government works?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* It is intended for their own benefit.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether reduction in the estimates of expenditure is made with reference to the lower wages fixed by Government?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes. The object is to make the money go as far as possible, regard being had to the limited amount intended solely for their own purposes.

DEPRESSED CLASS PUPILS—SUPPLY OF CLOTHS IN 1116—1117

77. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) what arrangements have been made this academic year (1116—17) for the supply of cloths to the Depressed Class pupils;

(*b*) from where are the cloths arranged to be supplied;

(*c*) whether tenders were called for;

(*d*) whether the first supply for the present academic year is over;

(*e*) how many indents for cloths are pending scrutiny in the Office of the Protector?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) No arrangements have been made.

(*b*) to (*e*) No answer is necessary in view of the answer to (*a*).

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Sir, I want to modify the printed answer given here to the question. After supplying this answer, the Central Jail authorities have agreed to supply one-third of the quantity of clothes. The Director of Industries and Commerce has been addressed whether he could supply any portion; in many industrial schools the necessary clothes are woven; many of the industrial co-operative societies are weaving clothes; even some of the Depressed Class Co-operative Societies would be able to supply a portion. Their replies are being awaited. When enquiries were made locally at Trichur, Mr. Chakkola informed the Protector of the Depressed Classes that he would not be able to supply the clothes at the sanctioned rates. Last year, Mr. Chakkola supplied at these rates, but he says that it would be impossible for him to supply at that rate now, considering the price of yarn.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, whether any clothes have been supplied?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* No, the supply begins only in the month of Chingam.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Is it for next year?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes. There is some rule laid down that the clothes should be supplied between 15th and 30th of Chingam.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Do the Government make use of the woven cloth in the Central Jail and in the industrial schools?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* There is no objection whatsoever.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Are they utilising it now?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* As far as possible. Last year we could not give any contract to the Jail, because their price was altogether prohibitive. This year they have agreed to supply at reduced rates.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Will not these co-operative societies, etc., be in a position to supply all the demands of the department?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* As far as we can, we will take these clothes from them. For the rest, we will consider other sources.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Ezhuvas-Trichur):* The Hon'ble Minister explained that one-third of the supply will be made by the

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Central Jail. Is it because there is not sufficient stock in the Jail that they cannot supply the whole quantity?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* No. We were not willing to give the whole quantity to them. We wanted to give a chance to industrial schools and co-operative societies also.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Will the Government be pleased to see that the supply is not left to private competition, if these institutions are able to supply clothes at a reasonable rate?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* That has been the policy.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Last year it was Mr. Chakkola that supplied.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* It was because he agreed to supply at a rate at which no one else was willing to give. The ruling principle of this department is this— cheapest consistant with quality. Wherever we can get the cheapest clothes, whether it be from a Government institution or a private institution, we go in for them, and the Protector is given the discretion to select on that principle.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Is it not also the object of the Government to see that the clothes made by these co-operative societies which are aided by Government are allowed to have a sale when Government themselves are purchasing clothes?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* We will give all facilities, but not at the expense of the Depressed Classes. I won't do it. If they will give us at reasonable prices, then we will take them.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* For the purpose of expediting the supply, will Government be pleased to make enquiries with regard to the exact quantity which will be available in the quasi-Government and Government institutions beforehand so that arrangements may be made with other people for the rest?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* We will do that.

DEPRESSED CLASS PUPILS—SUPPLY OF SCHOOL REQUISITES IN 1116—17

78. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will Government be pleased to state the names of firms, companies, or

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